

## **Election of San Antonio VIA transit authority board**

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HB 2062 by Alvarado et al. (Madla)

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- DIGEST:** HB 2062 would have required that San Antonio's VIA metropolitan transit board of trustees be elected from single-member districts rather than appointed. (Currently five members of the VIA board are appointed by the San Antonio city council, three are appointed by the Bexar County commissioners court and two are appointed jointly by the other cities in the VIA service area.) The VIA board would have divided the authority into single-member districts co-extensive with state representative districts. Board members would have served staggered, two-year terms.
- GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:** "HB 2062 is unnecessary given that another bill having the same objective was recently signed into law. HB 3157 creates a recall mechanism for appointed boards, thereby ensuring the responsiveness of a transit board to its citizens. Signing HB 2062 into law would be premature without first giving existing transit boards the opportunity to operate under the requirements of HB 3157."
- RESPONSE:** Rep. Leo Alvarado, the author of HB 2062, said: "The people of San Antonio will watch the appointment process very closely from now on. I will probably carry the same bill two years from now to ensure that the board members are accountable to the citizens of San Antonio instead of being accountable to those who appointed them."
- Sen. Frank Madla, the sponsor of HB 2062, said: "The real losers will be the people of Bexar County, who will have no voice on an appointed board."
- NOTES:** HB 2062 passed the House on the Local and Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*.
- HB 3157 by Conley, signed by the governor on May 23, makes VIA's board members subject to removal by recall at the recommendation of their appointing agency under certain circumstances. HB 3157 also stipulates that the terms of VIA's current board members will expire and the board will be reappointed on January 1, 1996.